

CPYRGHT

New Realities OAS Grows Up

By William S. White

IT IS TOO early to forecast the precise outlines of the government which is at length to come to power in the Dominican Republic, except to note the crucial point that it will be no dictatorship or either far-left or far-right.



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It is not too early, however, to salute two immense new realities which have emerged from the intervention of the United States Government into the Dominican chaos. They tower like mountains above all the small, fretful complaints of the American left-wing and all the petty pacifist carpings from abroad.

The first is that the United States has halted a mortally dangerous attempt to set up another Castro type of armed Communist lodgment. The second is that in the longer sense the United States has brought genuine collective security to this hemisphere.

THE ORGANIZATION of American States, which had been incapable of acting with real power and decision anywhere, is being made a force for the common safety of the new world. Latin America, under Washington's leadership, has at last grown up.

The great, the almost incredible, fact that for the first time in dozens of years of trying an inter-American peace-keeping force has come into being. It stands

today in the Dominican Republic under the command of a Brazilian officer. And though its troops are presently largely Yankee, it is an honest-to-God common shield. The sort of shield which in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has long protected Europe from Communist military encroachment has been forged at last in this hemisphere.

Seen in perspective, indeed, this act of American responsibility has put a check to Communist expansionism no less significant than was its arrest on the other side of the Atlantic nearly two decades ago.

An inter-American policy of common sense has succeeded an inter-American non-policy which allowed mortal peril to us all to entrench itself in Cuba. These are the dimensions of a historic victory for American leadership. Not all the nit-picking of those who sniped tirelessly at this action, suggesting that it was some adventure in "militarism," can possibly rub out this triumph.

THERE IS irony here; and not least in the criticism automatically flung at this intervention by some of the same men who persuaded John F. Kennedy not to act decisively as to Castro Cuba until it was almost too late. They have been not so much after President Johnson — who was of course solely responsible for it all — as after his advisers.

This, sort of attack is nothing new to the brilliant Under Secretary of State, Thomas Mann, whose previous services had included helping save giant Brazil from Castroism. To the ultra-liberals Mann has always

been a bad fellow. His crime is unforgivable. He openly believes that the life and death interests of the United States must come first. And he does not believe that all American business in Latin America is indecent.

This sort of attack is nothing new to any head of the Central Intelligence Agency, in whatever circumstance. It was a little odd as to Adm. William F. Raborn, the CIA's brand-new head, since Raborn had absolutely nothing to do with the decision and did not even know of it until after it had been made. The showdown came on the very day he was being sworn in; for a few hours, therefore, he was understandably occupied with family and friends.

BUT IT IS a new experience for that tough-minded egghead, McGeorge Bundy, the President's principal White House assistant on foreign affairs. Bundy's old Harvard gown, though long since packed away, had before this protected him. But the shouters are after him, too, now. For they have made the ghastly discovery that he does not regard any conceivable employment of American power, however honorably used for honorable purposes, to be necessarily an irredeemable sin.

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